

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Rockwood Estate Historic District [Amended – additional documentation and boundary decrease]

Other names/site number: Rockwood [76000579], Rockwood Park & Museum

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 4651 Washington Street Extension

City or town: Wilmington State: Delaware County: New Castle County

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☒

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national **X** statewide **X** local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

**X** A \_\_\_ B **X** C \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**Title :**

**State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government**

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☒  
Public – State ☐  
Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐  
District ☒  
Site ☐  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Landscape: Garden

Agriculture: Farmland

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

Landscape: Park

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival

Late Gothic Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone (Brandywine Granite)

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The legacy nomination for “Rockwood” [NPS# 76000579], the Rural Gothic Revival style manor house built for the Anglo-American merchant banker Joseph Shipley (1795-1867) of Wilmington, Delaware provides basic information about the estate’s development during the 1850s, biographical information about its owner/occupant as well as George Williams (1814-1898) the English architect who designed the residence with an attached conservatory. Within recent years volunteers and staff from Rockwood Museum undertook the task of amending the 1976 nomination and conducted extensive research by examining a myriad of archival documents.

Additional documentation now chronicles the physical evolution of the manor house including appendages built during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries constructed in a Late Gothic Revival style. In addition, researchers confirmed acreage at 73.48 acres instead of the estimated acreage of 162 acres noted in the 1976 nomination. Researchers also inventoried ancillary buildings as well as landscape features and designated their status as either contributing or noncontributing, identified “lost” resources on the cultural landscape and determined many of their approximate locations. The accumulation of additional documentation justified an expansion of the period of significance beyond the 1851 to 1895 period up to 1939 and expanded areas of significance retaining architecture and landscape architecture but adding social history and dropping commerce.

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The property no longer functions as a private estate which was in the process of transitioning into public property when listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Instead, New Castle County now owns and administers the 73.48 Rockwood Museum and Park area. Though the rural agricultural viewshed disappeared over the years the county established a recreational park and chose to create unobtrusive dirt and paved paths for jogging, biking, and walking along the perimeters of the park which do not detract from the historic ambiance of the property.

New Castle County, one of Delaware's seven certified local governments, continues to maintain and preserve the property's historic buildings, terraced lawns, stone walls, as well as the six-acre historic garden containing original trees and shrubs planted by Shipley and his Bringham family relatives during the nineteenth century.

Statement of Integrity

Six of the seven qualities of integrity – association, design, feeling, location, materials, and workmanship remain at a high level of integrity as evidenced by the survival of a number of the estate's original buildings, Gardenesque landscape features, and architectural character-defining features reflective of the revised period of significance 1851 – 1939 including a one-story full - width porch, quoin embellishments, paired and elongated windows, and triple diamond-shaped clustered chimneys.

However, the setting retains a moderately high level of integrity due to the transformation of the cultural landscape from an agricultural setting into a park surrounded by upper class residential subdevelopments, individual dwellings, and modern highways. The three residential subdivisions (Rockwood Woods, Little Rock Woods, and Serenity) situated west and northwest of Rockwood were developed between the 1970s and early the 2000s. The housing lots facing Rockwood Road, situated west of Rockwood, were constructed between the 1940s and early 2000s. Major highway advancements include the construction of Washington Street Extension south of Rockwood during the 1930s and I-95 north of Rockwood during the 1960s. Shipley Road, an unchanged historic structure, remains east of Rockwood. This roadway was established prior to 1849 and connected local farmers with Philadelphia Pike, a major route connecting the City of Wilmington with Philadelphia which is a distance of approximately 32 miles.

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**Narrative Description**

Rockwood Mansion Exterior:

Rockwood was first designed in the rural Gothic taste by Liverpool England architect George Williams in stages between 1851-1857 and meant to fit the description of the ideal *villa*.<sup>1</sup> This two-story and attic mansion was built as a retirement home for Wilmington native and international merchant-banker Joseph Shipley. It is made of Brandywine granite with contrasting quoins, window and door surrounds. The front entrance, or north façade, of the house is symmetrical in its

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the 19<sup>th</sup> century designers and theorists on villa architecture of the Gothic style that likely influenced Rockwood included Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing and Richard Upjohn as well as John Ruskin and Eugene Viollet-le-Duc to name a few.

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general outline but not in its detail. Two large projecting gabled bays frame the two-bayed center section. The gable bay on the east has an end chimney framed by cut granite quoins and pierced by an arched blind window while the other gabled bay has a large, double casement window. Similar windows are found at the second-floor level of the center bay, and next to the entrance porch on the ground level. The projecting entrance porch is supported by slender Gothic columns and decorated with scrollwork, finials, and chevron molding. The gable roof features a metal standing seam metal roof and triple diamond-shaped red brick chimneys. This chimney configuration is an unusual feature in Delaware.

The gable on the east end of the house repeats exactly in the form and detail the features of the east gable on the north façade. To the north of the gable, the straight lines of a triple, full-length, glass doorway contrasts sharply with the decorative scrollwork of a projecting porch presumably added after 1892. The glass-enclosed attached conservatory, built during the first phase of construction of the house, projects in an easterly direction. A small balustrade surmounts the exterior wall composed of pierced, cast-iron plaques separated by square finials.

The garden front, the south façade, is really the main façade of the house. A single-story verandah spans the seven-bay facade. The side groups of three bays are further divided so that the central bay has three full-length glass doors. This is repeated in a diminished fashion on the second floor where a double casement window lies between single casement windows. Further emphasis is added to this grouping by the small gables which tops the side sections and echo the shape of the large gable of the central pavilion. This pavilion is the main axis of the garden façade.

The west wing, or servant's quarters, includes part of the original house built from 1851 to 1854, an addition designed by Williams in 1856, a second-floor addition from the 1890s, a ten-room addition of 1913, and a final set of additions on the third floor built in 1931. Originally, the small west service wing provided compositional balance for the conservatory on the east end of the house. The addition of a second story to this wing in 1856 offset this balance. The west wing is dominated now with the construction executed in 1913 which was designed to blend stylistically with the original 1850s construction with cut Brandywine granite, decorative exterior woodwork, and sharply pitched gables. The only modern departure of this wing's design is a large sleeping porch with very wide eaves at the far west end of the 1913 wing reflecting a Japanesque influence.

Interior Details of the Original Mansion and Additions:

The west wing was largely constructed for servant activities included a new dining hall, storage, as well as a new estate office and owners' and guest bedrooms on the second floor. The service and living areas within this wing are not as sharply separated as was found in the 1850s portion of the house. The majority of the 1913 interiors retain their original doors, window molding, hardware, wooden floors, and Colonial Revival fireplace surrounds with 18<sup>th</sup> century Delft tiles.

The rest of Rockwood's interior decoration presents a complete illustration of mid-century aestheticism. The interior parallels the exterior in its picturesque interplay of the Gothic and classical traditions in architecture. The plan, shown in Figures 6 and 7, is organized with a central axis starting at the entrance door, crossing the stair hall, bisecting the anteroom between the two

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front rooms, and continuing out the door into the garden. As shown in the plan, the lateral axis is broken by the asymmetrical arrangement of the rooms following the irregular pattern of the exterior. The stair hall displays much of the mixture found in the architectural detail throughout Rockwood: the archway is composed of a combination of Jacobean, Georgian, and Greek revival motifs; the staircase is Jacobean and classical; the cornice is Roman revival. Its ceiling rises two full stories and has a heavy cornice proportionate to its height. The room is girded on two sides by the oak staircase and on the other two by the second-floor balcony. All the first-floor rooms have varnished oak floors, the same finish as the staircase. On axis with the carriage entrance of the north façade, an entry with a plaster groin vault and arched gothic molding, lies the ante room with two sets of glass doors with transom windows that once opened to the verandah.

To the left of the stair hall is the “breakfast room” of Williams’ plan<sup>2</sup>. This room has a simple cove cornice bordered by egg-and-dart and a small, gilded, half-round molding around the bottom, and a half-round molding on the top. In a clockwise fashion, the breakfast room opens into the drawing room – the largest on the first floor. Its south wall of the room consists entirely of tall glass doors, topped with a set of transom windows, each with inset shutters. These windows once opened to verandah and look over the south lawn and pleasure garden. The room has a broad cornice consisting of a combination of gilt plaster lambs’ tongue, acanthas leaf, and cyma reversa leaf patterns with a picture rail at the bottom and a large ornate gilt medallion sits the center of the ceiling. The long rectangular conservatory opens off the east side of the drawing room. It is supported by two cast iron columnar arcades that frame a central “nave” and two “side aisles.” The dining room has a central white marble fireplace, composed of pointed arch side panels. The room’s cornice consists of a series of large quarter and half round beads as well as a cyma reversa and cyma recta of leaf patterns. Like the drawing room, the south wall of the dining room consists primarily of tall glass doors topped with a set of transom windows each with inset shutters

The second-floor bedrooms within Rockwood’s 1851-54 construction correspond largely to the shape and position of the first-floor rooms. All the rooms have fireplaces of white marble that are generally plainer in character than those on the first floor. However, the cornices are also simpler and the ceilings, like on the first floor, are very high to accommodate a series of extremely tall, hinged windows along the entirety of the south façade.

Technological Amenities:

The first-construction portion of the house was built with gas lighting in many of the rooms. The house was also built with central heating on the first floor, an indoor water closet fed from a cistern in the attic and heated floors in the conservatory. Finally, there are several generations of servant-call technologies still present within the house including evidence of the original bell ringer as well as the turn-of-the-century annunciator. The servant spaces in this portion of the house down the stairs from the owners’ rooms: the kitchen, scullery, food storage areas in the basement have been moved at least four times within the mansion’s history.

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<sup>2</sup> George Williams, Architectural Drawings of Rockwood, 1851, University of Delaware Library-Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Box 2, F72.

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The Evolution of Rockwood Estate:

The following sections describes the evolution of the estate from 1851 to 1939 through five periods of construction. Resources noted in the following sections can be found in the Historic Resource Inventory on page 10 and their locations noted on a color-coded map featured on page 39.

Period 1: 1851-1854:

Joseph Shipley moved quickly to add substantial architectural features to the property he purchased from Levi Weldin in 1850 which included an old farmhouse (resource 32) and a bank barn (resource 15). During this period, he had Rockwood mansion (resource 18) built in tandem with the Pleasure Garden defined by a Ha-Ha Wall (resource 8) and gate piers (resource 7). Within the Pleasure Garden he had designed the extensive walking path system that defines and connects the North Lawn (resource 17), South Lawn, Chestnut Mound and Pinetum (resources 27-29). He also created the winding entry drive from Shipley Road and delineated viewsheds like The Cliffs (resource 5) from pre-established Weldin farmlands (resource 34). It is assumed that he divided these farmlands among livestock and growing fields with the construction of three dry-stack stone walls at the north end of the estate (resource 1), at the estate entrance and alongside the entrance drive in the center of the estate (resource 35 & 40) and in the southern end of the estate (resource 33). The Walled Garden (resource 9) was probably built during this time along with its attached Boiler Room, Garden Shed, Greenhouse, Hothouse (resources 11-14) and Loggia (resource 16). Several service buildings were presumably added in this period including the Gas House (resource 30), Icehouse (resource 20), Chicken Coop/Dog Kennel, Woodshed, Corn Crib and Hay Shed (resources 21-24).

Of interest during this period is the fact that Joseph Shipley built Rockwood with gas lighting, central heating, a heated floor in the Conservatory and indoor plumbing fed from a large cistern in the attic. Although the acetylene gas is no longer fueling Rockwood's lights and the plumbing was updated in several phases over its history, much material evidence still exists at Rockwood to point to these early modern technologies including wooden duct work and boiler plates in the basement, gas fed nozzles in most of the bedrooms and the location of the original water closet.

Period 2: 1854-1857:

This period completed most of the original Rockwood estate, allowed it to operate as a working country estate. This period saw the construction of the Gardener's Cottage (resource 2), the Porter's Lodge (resource 39) and the first major expansion of the bank barn to become an operating Carriage House (resource 15).

Except for the wood-constructed farm buildings that likely dated to this period, listed above, all other resources described are still extent and in a high-enough level of preservation to be able to identify, inhabit and interpret them to museum and park visitors. The earliest construction of the Rockwood estate remains largely unchanged and is among its longest lasting attesting to the high level of design, construction and stylistic integrity still exhibited to Rockwood's National Register status.



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Period 3: 1892-1900:

After Rockwood was taken over by Joseph Shipley's great nephew, Edward Bringhurst, Jr. (1835-1912), a few modernizations were layered onto this estate. While they now lay in ruins, their presence represents Bringhursts' influence especially with the addition of the Windmill (resource 38) and Irrigation cistern (resource 31) as well as a rear exit from the estate onto Rockland Road marked by an old bridge over Turkey Run (resource 25). Interestingly, a few of the Bringhurst additions, now only known in period photographs, demonstrate that Shipley's Pleasure Garden became an area for other types of recreation likely owing to the societal increase in leisure pursuits: the architectural follies (resource 4), the badminton court (resource 3) and the pet cemetery (resource 19). During this period, the mansion was also enlarged with the addition of a few rooms that were built above the old summer kitchen to form a three-story tower. Another lasting change at Rockwood during this period was the layering of electrical power onto a building that had been, and likely was still, being illuminated by gas and candles. In addition, the central heating technology installed in the 1850s began to be updated in this period with successive waves of radiant heaters-still installed inside the mansion-fed from a large boiler in the basement.

While much of this phase is physically still present on the estate, the extensive allied collection of over 5000 historic photographs now housed within and digitized at the University of Delaware Library's Special Collections lends tremendous integrity to the ephemeral construction that took place at Rockwood.<sup>3</sup>

Period 4: 1913:

This phase of construction is remembered for the addition of the large west wing of the mansion that added extra spaces for servants as well as extra bedrooms for members of the Bringhurst family. While much of this addition is in-keeping with the design, materials and spirit of the original Gothic Revival mansion, the far west end of the addition was capped with a decidedly Japanesque sleeping porch owing to new trends in early 20<sup>th</sup> century design.

Period 5: 1930-1939:

This final phase of construction completed the mansion with the additions of two sets of servants' rooms within the third-floor attic. These unchanged rooms are the best representation within the house of the separation between owners and servants. In the landscape, one major change happened during this period. The greenhouses and kitchen garden that were once hidden within the Walled Garden were raised and replaced by a formal Parterre Garden (resource 10), stylistically in contrast with the preserved Gardenesque landscape design of the estate but highly fashionable during the Colonial Revival period of the Sesquicentennial.

Landscape Features:

Rockwood Estate contains landscape features including ha-ha walls, a pleasure garden, a terraced lawn, and topographic features which enhance the look, feeling, and association within the district. Features from the first period of construction, 1851 to 1854, are still evident on the landscape.

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<sup>3</sup> [Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves family papers | Manuscript and Archival Collection Finding Aids \(udel.edu\)](http://shipley-bringhurst-hargraves-family-papers-manuscript-and-archival-collection-finding-aids.udel.edu)

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Shipley's relatives and subsequent property owners and occupants of Rockwood Estate retained some of the picturesque landscape features.

Archeological Potential

The identification of lost resource locations is noted for the benefit of possible future archaeological investigations including the excavation of foundations associated with an earlier residence and farm complex coupled with additional deed research documenting land conveyances to earlier property owners including the site's occupation by the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware.

Inventory of Historic Resources:

The following Inventory of Historic Resources, documented by Rockwood Museum and Park volunteers identify property types, dates of construction, and denotes status. Locations of resources are cited on a site map on page 39.

Resource Number	Historic Name	Date of Construction	Type	Function	Contributing/Non-contributing
1	Northern Dry-Stack Stone Wall	1851	Structure	Landscape	Contributing
2	Gardener's Cottage*	1855	Building	Domestic	Contributing
3	Badminton Court**	1900	Site	Recreation	N/A
4	Architectural Folly**	1900	Building	Secondary structure	N/A
5	The Cliffs	1851	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
6	Historic Orchard/Upper Parking Lot	2000	Structure	Landscape	Noncontributing
7	Two stone masonry piers flanking fenced entrance to Pleasure Garden	1851	Structure	Agriculture	Contributing
8	Ha-Ha Wall	1851	Structure	Agriculture	Contributing
9	Walled Garden	1851	Structure	Agriculture	Contributing
10	Parterre Garden	1930	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
11	Boiler Room	1851	Building	Secondary structure	Contributing
12	Garden Shed	1851	Building	Agriculture	Contributing
13	Hothouse**	1851	Building	Agriculture	N/A
14	Greenhouse**	1851	Building	Agriculture	N/A
15	Carriage House/Event Space*	Pre-1851	Building	Agriculture/Transport	Contributing
16	Loggia**	1851	Structure	Landscape	N/A
17	North Lawn	1851	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
18	Rockwood House	1851	Building	Domestic	Contributing

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19	Pet Cemetery**	1900	Landscape	Cemetery	N/A
20	Icehouse	1851	Building	Secondary structure	Contributing
21	Chicken Coop/Dog Kennel**	1851	Building	Secondary structure	N/A
22	Woodshed**	1851	Building	Secondary structure	N/A
23	Corn Crib**	1851	Building	Secondary structure	N/A
24	Hay Shed**	1851	Building	Secondary structure	N/A
25	Ruin of Turkey Run Bridge	1851	Structure	transport	Contributing
26	Maintenance Shed	2000	Building	Secondary structure	Noncontributing
27	Pinetum	1851	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
28	South Lawn	1851	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
29	Chestnut Mound	1851	Landscape	Landscape	Contributing
30	Gas House	1851	Building		Contributing
31	Ruin of Irrigation Cistern	1900	Structure	Site	Contributing
32	Ruin of Weldin Farmhouse/Edward's Playhouse	Pre-1851	Building	Site	Contributing
33	Southern Dry-Stack Wall	1851	Structure	Agriculture	Contributing
34	Agricultural Fields (Park)	Pre-1851	Landscape	Park	Contributing
35	Entry Drive Dry-Stack Wall	1851	Structure	Agriculture	Contributing
36	Lower Parking Lot	2000	Structure	Landscape	Noncontributing
37	Pond	2000	Landscape	Landscape	Noncontributing
38	Ruin of Windmill	1900	Site	Agriculture	Contributing
39	Porter's Lodge*	1855	Building	Interpretation	Contributing
40	Shipley Road Walled Gate	1851	Structure	Landscape	Contributing
41	Washington Street Extension Entrance Gate	2000	Structure	Landscape	Noncontributing

\*Denotes New Castle County properties interpreted within Rockwood Park & Museum and leased, or may be leased, as separate businesses with unique addresses.

\*\*Lost resources are noted in the inventory but are not counted in the final resource count.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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(Enter categories from instructions.)

## Landscape Architecture

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1851-1939

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1851-1854

1854-1857

1900

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1913

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1930-1939

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(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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N/A

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N/A

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George Williams (architect)

Thomas and James Dixon (architects)

Elisha Huxley (contractor)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Amended nomination for Rockwood, now categorized as a district, provides additional documentation about the house and its attached conservatory built for Joseph Shipley between 1851 – 1854, the large appendage constructed by his relatives during the early twentieth century, an inventory of more than 30 cultural resources including ancillary buildings and sites associated with lost resources, and the identification of surviving period trees and plantings planted within the period of significance. The Amended nomination also includes a revised period of significance encompassing the years 1851 to 1939 and changes its level of significance from national to local and state levels under Criteria A and C.

Under Criterion A, Rockwood exemplifies broad patterns of social history as an area of significance through its documentation of female ownership and occupancy as well as the familial management of an inherited country estate throughout the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Additionally, new documentation provides information about the servants and staff who maintained Rockwood during the period of significance. Points of special emphasis are the roles the Shipley/Bringinghurst/Hargraves family played in society and philanthropy; the unique position women played in the management of Rockwood; as well as the history of the lives of the rarely represented staff and servants at Rockwood. The period of significance is 1851-1939 encompasses the major construction and gardening projects at Rockwood during the tenure of Joseph Shipley and his relatives; subsequently helping to define a relationship between a new American leisure class and the natural world and blurs the distinction between interior and exterior spaces in ways that can simply be defined as modern.

Under Criterion C, Rockwood's architectural significance is illustrated by its Gothic Revival design characteristic of the country house movement, the survival of its original attached conservatory, and the preservation of elements of the Gardenesque landscape retaining examples of specimen trees, gardens, and plantings many of which were planted by the original owner, Joseph Shipley, and his relatives during the period of significance. Acknowledging that Rockwood is a well-documented Gothic Revival mansion and is the state's only known nineteenth century dwelling retaining its original attached conservatory validates its State and Local levels of significance,

Today, the country estate established by Joseph Shipley, a native Delawarean and a retired Anglo-American banker and founding partner of the William & James Brown & Co. of Liverpool, England functions as an historic house museum and as such is the principal component of a recreational park known as Rockwood Park & Museum which is owned and administered by New Castle County, Delaware.

As it exists today, Rockwood makes an unusually complete and effective statement about early Victorian tastes in the tradition of Andrew Jackson Downing, John Claudius Loudon, Humphry Repton, and Edward Kemp. The well-preserved mansion and conservatory designed by British

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architect George Williams is a consummate statement of both English Victorian Romanticism manifested in the Gothic Revival, and the picturesque merger of landscape architecture and an intensely curated naturalistic landscape known as Gardenesque. In the whole, Rockwood's architecture, the estate plan, the only 19<sup>th</sup> century Gardenesque garden in Delaware, estate buildings and structures still depict a total physical sensibility that is rare on the east coast of the United States.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Social History is illustrated at Rockwood state Historic District through its 120 years of familial ownership. The estate, transferred from Joseph Shipley to his sisters and subsequent relatives, highlights their status in the community as well as their owner/occupant trends.

The Shipleys at Rockwood, 1851-1891:

Joseph Shipley (1795-1867), the owner and builder of Rockwood, was the great grandson of one of Wilmington's founders and first Chief Burgess (colonial mayor) William Shipley (1693-1768) and Elizabeth Levis Shipley (1690-1777). Joseph Shipley was the fourth son of a prominent Quaker miller, Joseph Shipley, Sr. (1752-1832) and his wife Mary Shipley (1754-1843) and was educated at Westtown Academy, a school established by the Society of Friends in 1799 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Joseph Shipley purchased the Shipley family home, situated at 112 East Sixteenth Street in Wilmington (now demolished) after his parent's demise and it remained in family hands throughout the nineteenth century. Instead of becoming involved with the family milling business, he pursued a career in his cousin's Samuel Canby, Jr.'s counting house in Philadelphia in 1813, and entered business with merchant James Welsh in 1819. During that year John Welsh wrote letters of introduction for Joseph Shipley as he embarked to Liverpool, England where he transacted business on Mr. Welsh's behalf. He continued to transact business under Mr. Welsh's name until January 1822 when the firm's name was changed to Shipley, Welsh & Company. By 1822 he had moved to Liverpool, England and in 1837 was made a participating partner of Brown, Shipley and Company. His principal interest as an international merchant banker was supplying cotton harvested by enslaved populations of the American South to the Lancashire Mills. His business was deemed so vital to the British economy that the British Government protected his firm from ruin during the financial crisis of 1837.<sup>4</sup> He was later presented at the Court of Queen Victoria in 1844.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Shipley was also vice president of the Delaware Horticulture Society for many years and was known for his exceptional grapes and pears. Philanthropic activities included Shipley's donation of \$9,000 for equipment needed to recruit 400 militia troops through his participation in the Committee of Safety headed by Governor William Burton at the outbreak of the Civil War.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Shipley to Samuel Shipley, letter of April 25, 1837, University of Delaware Library Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Box 2, F48.

<sup>5</sup> Brinkle to Joseph Shipley, letter off 1860, University of Delaware Library Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Box 2, F62

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Around 1846 Joseph Shipley moved into a Gothic Revival country house outside of Liverpool, England called Wyncote (Figure 1) designed by Arthur and George Williams shortly before 1840.<sup>6</sup> In that same year, Shipley began asking family members in Wilmington to help him procure farmland. After retiring in 1850, Shipley returned to Wilmington and commissioned Wyncote's architect George Williams to develop plans based on Wyncote, and in the following year began construction on 222 acres. By 1866 the farm had grown to its largest of 374 acres. Locally, Shipley hired as his general contractor Elisha Huxley who owned a carpentry shop on Walnut between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets.<sup>7</sup> Lumber was acquired from Nelson Cleland and marble from Smith and Callahan. Other suppliers used by Shipley included Jesse Land & Co. for lumber, David C. Wilson for bricks, Thomas Smith for cut stone, William Robinson for carpentry, John A. Duncan for hardware and his cousin Thomas Garrett for iron and hardware among others.<sup>8</sup>

Upon his death, after 12 years at Rockwood, the value of Shipley's estate was listed at \$527,404 in 1867. He bequeathed a 95-acre farm located north of the Rockwood mansion to his nephew Samuel H. Dixon (perhaps died 1883) and 80 acres to his niece Mary Anna Paschall (dates unknown). The remaining property was left to his unmarried sisters Elizabeth Lois Shipley (1789-1866), Sarah Shipley (1802-1872) and Hannah Shipley (d. 1891). Since Elizabeth predeceased him, Sarah and Hannah owned, maintained staff and spent summers at Rockwood for the next 24 years. They also continued to operate Rockwood's nearly 200 acres at that time as a working farm. They wintered at their ancestral home, which they also owned, in downtown Wilmington. Sarah passed away in 1872, and Hanna continued to live part-time at Rockwood until her death in 1891. While none of the major construction projects that have been identified so far are attributed to the Shipley sisters, they notably maintained and worked the property with staff for twice as long as their brother.

#### The Bringhursts at Rockwood, 1892-1965:

Hanna Shipley named her great-nephew Edward Bringhurst, Jr. as executor of her estate and directed that it be divided equally among her seven heirs through auction of the land, house and contents of Rockwood.<sup>9</sup> At the 1892 auction Bringhurst's mother, Sarah Shipley Bringhurst (1812-96), purchased the mansion, much of the Shipley era furnishings, 73 contiguous acres and an additional 52-acres of woodland along Shellpot Creek on her son's behalf. Of the three remaining parcels, the neighboring and related Dixon family purchased two on behalf of the Edward Bringhurst, Jr. and one for themselves. Through this auction, Edward and his wife Anna (Webb) Bringhurst (1843-1923) purchased the mansion, contents, estate buildings and a total of 160 acres. Upon the death of his mother in 1896, Edward Bringhurst Jr. inherited "The Cliffs", the Bringhurst family estate, located on the north side of the B&O Railroad, consisting of 43 acres. An additional 13.75 acres was purchased in 1904 that was adjacent to Rockwood and the B&O Railroad. Rockwood had now grown to 215 acres.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://library.artstor.org/public/SS36142\\_36142\\_32618707](https://library.artstor.org/public/SS36142_36142_32618707)

<sup>7</sup> Heald, Joshua T. (ed), *Wilmington Directory 1853* (Wilmington, Delaware, Joshua T. Heald) 33

<sup>8</sup> Vincent, Gilbert T., "Rockwood: A Romantic Villa in Brandywine Hundred" (master's thesis, University of Delaware, 1973) appendix A

<sup>9</sup> New Castle County, Probate Records (ca 1682-1925), Register of Wills, New Castle, Delaware



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Edward Jr. was the second child of Edward Sr. and his wife Sarah Shipley. He followed his father and grandfather and worked in the family's Bringhurst Apothecary Shop<sup>10</sup> until his retirement in 1876. Married in 1862 he had four children, all of whom eventually lived at Rockwood. Edward Jr. was the director of the Wilmington Savings Fund Society, president of the New Castle Fire Insurance Company, president of the Wilmington & Great Valley Turnpike Co., director of several railroad companies and a member of the Historical Society of Delaware. He died in 1912, leaving the estate to his wife Anna who grew the property to approximately 250 acres.

Edward, his wife Anna Bringhurst, and three of their four children moved into Rockwood. Mary Bringhurst (1865-1965) lived at Rockwood from 1892 until her death at the age of 100. She did not marry. She was active in community affairs, including the Wilmington Friends Society. She entertained lavishly and participated in social events in the area. Edith Bringhurst (1874-1947), an accomplished equestrian, married Alexander Sellers in 1897 at an outdoor ceremony at Rockwood. The wedding was written about extensively in the local newspapers. Edith and her husband moved to Radnor, Pennsylvania and had four children. Edward Bringhurst, III (1884-1939)<sup>11</sup> was educated at Rockwood. He traveled extensively, dedicated himself aesthetic cultivation, competed Great Danes, was an early pilot and never married. Edward Bringhurst, V was presented to King George V and Queen Mary at the Court of St. James in 1911. The oldest sibling, Elizabeth "Bessie" (Bringhurst) Galt-Smith (1863-1932) married John Galt Smith (d. 1899), an Irish linen merchant in 1886. They made their home at Kilwaughter Castle, Larne Ireland and New York City and, after his death, she managed the Irish estate on her own until the political and religious violence in Northern Ireland forced her to move to Rockwood in 1920. She was presented to King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in Dublin Castle in 1903 and again to King George V and Queen Mary in 1911-the only female member of the Bringhursts to earn this honor.

In 1917, Anna Bringhurst sold Rockwood, in its entirety, to her daughter Mary Bringhurst and son Edward Bringhurst, V. They made the final purchase of an additional eight acres bringing the estate to about 258 acres, its largest size under their family. Starting in 1923, they (and after 1939 just Mary independently) sold, gifted, and lost by eminent domain all but 119 acres. They

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<sup>10</sup> Dr. Joseph Bringhurst was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He studied medicine and moved to Wilmington in 1793 to establish a pharmacy on Market Street that remained in business for 130 years. Dr. Bringhurst took a deep interest in public affairs. In 1799 he was clerk to the borough of Wilmington and in 1802 was appointed postmaster by President Thomas Jefferson and was reappointed by Presidents Madison and Monroe. In 1820 he lost his position due to his strong abolitionist views. Dr. Bringhurst was close friends with Colonel John Dickinson, Revolutionary patriot, member of the Continental Congress and of the Convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was with Mr. Dickinson almost daily during his last illness and was probably the last man to converse with him. He notified President Jefferson of Mr. Dickinson's death which the President acknowledged in a letter that is preserved in the Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Papers at the University of Delaware. Dr. Bringhurst was acquainted with Robert Fulton and through him became interested in steam navigation on the Delaware River. He was also an active promoter and partner in the first cotton factory erected in Delaware. Dr. Bringhurst and his wife had five children: William, Mary, Joseph, Edward Sr. and Ziba.

<sup>11</sup> Edward Bringhurst, III later changed his name to Edward Bringhurst, V; this later name will be used furthermore.

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established Bringhurst Woods, a 40-acre park now owned by New Castle County, and lost land for the construction of their northern and southern borders, Interstate-95, and Washington Street Extension.

The Bringhursts were a much larger family than the Shipleys and they entertained much more often. As such, they hired many more servants. In the year the Bringhursts moved to Rockwood, Mary Bringhurst travelled to Ireland to visit her sister Bessie Galt-Smith and to recruit staff for the American estate.<sup>12</sup>

The Hargraves at Rockwood:

Mary Bringhurst bequeathed much of the remaining lands to her nieces Edith Sellers Farnum (1935-1993) and Anna "Nancy" (Sellers) Hargraves (1898-1972). Although outside the time period of greatest importance to this designation, the Hargraves were instrumental in transferring the estate and notable collections to the Rockwood Park & Museum entity. Nancy Sellers was the oldest child of Edith (Bringhurst) and Alexander Sellers. She married Gordon Hargraves (1898- c. 1972) in 1927 and inherited Rockwood mansion and most of its remaining grounds. Nancy directed in her will that Rockwood was to be conveyed to a charity for "the enjoyment and enlightenment of the present and future generations."<sup>13</sup> The estate was conveyed to New Castle County in 1973 through the Court of Chancery in 1976 it was dedicated as the Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Museum.

Interestingly, the male figures of the Shipley and Bringhurst families receive much of the attention for their architectural, gardening and artful additions to Rockwood from 1851 to 1972 when New Castle County became the new stewards of this property. However, the women of Rockwood were the primary and collaborative caretakers for 84 of its 120-year family history. More work needs to be done to better understand their specific contributions not only to the house and landscape, but to the art collection of the house as well as public perception of this estate as it aged into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Unrepresented Community at Rockwood Estate and Social History Highlights:

**1854 - 1867**

Analysis of Joseph Shipley's probate records dated 1867 – 1868 convey that at least six individuals were employed at the Rockwood estate. Three individuals -- Mrs. Audrey Douglas (d. 1905), Robert Salisbury (d. 1891), and David Shaw (1831-1897) emigrated to Delaware with Mr. Shipley when he left England and returned to Wilmington. Mrs. Douglas served as a housekeeper, Mr. Salisbury served as a gardener and likely aided Mr. Shipley in the design and implementation of the Pleasure Garden surrounding Rockwood, and David Shaw functioned as a coachman. In addition, three others held special positions: Margaret Welsh served as a housemaid, an African American woman named Anne Caroline Dawson served as the cook and lived in the mansion, and [David/Daniel] Haggarty functioned as a workman. Additional research also mentioned an African

<sup>12</sup> Bringhurst to Anna James Webb Bringhurst, letter of 1892, University of Delaware Library Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Subseries II.B.4 (unprocessed)

<sup>13</sup> Nancy Bringhurst Sellers, will, University of Delaware Library Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringhurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Subseries II.B.4 (unprocessed)

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American named David Jones who served as Mr. Shipley's butler from 1860 – 1867. According to distributive accounts, Joseph Shipley's estate distributed money to each of these individuals in accordance with Mr. Shipley's will in the following manner:

Ann Caroline Dawson	\$100	Robert Saulsbury	\$500
Daniel Haggerty	\$100	David Shaw	\$500
Margaret Welsh	\$200	Aubrey Douglass	\$10,000

Rockwood, the largest of the farms owned by Joseph Shipley at the time of his death contained 3 acres of wheat, 10 acres of oats, 1 acre of potatoes, and 7 acres of wheat. His inventoried livestock included 1 yoke of oxen, 2 cows, 3 horses, 15 pair chickens, 2 turkeys, 7 cows, and 2 heifers, and 1 bull calf.<sup>14</sup>

**1867 - 1891**

Research compiled by Rockwood Museum's volunteers provided information about the Joseph Shipley's three sisters who inherited, occupied, and managed the Rockwood estate after their brother's demise between 1867 – 1891. According to Joseph Shipley's probate records dated 1867 – 1868, Mr. Shipley specified that his three sisters namely Elizabeth Lois Shipley, Sarah Shipley, and Hannah Shipley inherited "the Farm and residence on which I reside called Rockwood, including the land .... I also I give said sisters, share and share alike, all my household Furniture, Horses, Carriages, Plate, and Cattle attached to my place called Before Rockwood."<sup>15</sup>

Sometime prior to 1891 Hannah Shipley's older sisters Elizabeth Lois and Sarah had passed away. According to Hannah's obituary dated December 17, 1891, she lived a "quiet unostentatious life" with members of Wilmington's Society of Friends. Devoted to charitable purposes she financially contributed to hospitals and benevolent institutions and extended her kindness to others privately. Last of the Delaware Shipley's, Hannah "settled down to a quiet domestic life residing at the beautiful residence of Rockwood in the summer months and in the [family mansion] on Sixteenth Street in Wilmington during the winter months."<sup>16</sup>

Known for her "high mental endowments" Hannah "always managed the business of the estate and had charge of her sisters' affairs."<sup>17</sup> According to Hannah's will and other probate documents, including a couple of handwritten codicils, Hannah Shipley bequeathed "members of [Rockwood's] household" generous amounts of money.<sup>18</sup>

David Shaw	\$5,000
Audrey Douglas	\$5,000
Robert Saulsbury	\$5,000
Margaret Welsh	\$2,000

<sup>14</sup> Delaware Probate Records – Joseph Shipley 1867 – 1868, Delaware Public Archives RG # 24957

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> *Delaware Gazette and State Journal* – Wilmington, Delaware, August 17, 1891.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Delaware Probate Records – Hannah Shipley 1892 – 1895, Delaware Public Archives RG #24950

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Additional benevolent bequeaths provided by Hannah Shipley included the sum of \$5,000 to the Delaware Hospital, \$5,000 to Wilmington's mayor and council to "invest and apply and supply the poor of with fuel during harsh winter season," \$8,000 to St. John's Church and \$4,800 to Delaware Avenue Baptist Church. Her transfer of property included gifting a "two-story house and lot #1403 ... on the west side of French Street between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> street to an African American named William Hester.<sup>19</sup>

When inherited, the mansion at Rockwood contained at least ten rooms, a conservatory, and porch. Hannah Shipley's inventory notes ownership of a Landau, Sleigh, Dearbon Wagon, a Leaf Wagon, and a cart. Livestock included 4 horses, 3 pigs, 1 colt, 6 cows, and 2 calves.<sup>20</sup> According to the 1881 Hopkins Map of New Castle County, Delaware Hannah Shipley was one of only four women listed as owners of farms in the immediate area. Though the majority of farms ranged in size from 5 to 95 acres, Hannah Shipley's estate was the second largest among female owners containing 198 acres. Only one estate, that of a Mrs. Carr, was larger and contained 346 acres.

### **1892 – 1939**

This time frame witnessed the transfer of the Shipley estate to Bringhurst family relatives according to specifications cited in the will of Hannah Shipley. She specified that the estate be auctioned and that proceeds divided equally among her relatives. Hannah Shipley's great-nephew and executor of her estate, Edward Bringhurst, Jr., complied with Hannah Shipley's request. His mother, Sarah Shipley Bringhurst, purchased Rockwood and conveyed the estate to her son. In 1892 Edward Bringhurst, Jr. and his wife Anna resided at Rockwood along with their three children: Mary, Edith, and Edward V. Elizabeth Bringhurst Galt Smith, their oldest daughter, resided in Ireland with her husband John Galt Smith at Kilwaughter Castle in Antrim, Ireland. Their unmarried daughter Mary, who lived to be 100 years old, continued to reside at Rockwood after her parents died. As members of the social elite, the Bringhursts frequently entertained and were busy raising children. The Bringhursts, including Mary, employed individuals born in Ireland. As late as 1940, the U.S. Census identified Margaret Dillon (cook), Mary Hughes (waitress), Margaret [Gavigan] (housemaid, and John [Tapley] (chauffer) as privately employed individuals. It was during the Bringhurst period of ownership and occupancy that Rockwood was electrified, redecorated with fine antiques, and expanded by the construction of a large appendage.

The distinction of males within the Bringhurst family as prominent businessmen in the city of Wilmington, Delaware continued throughout the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. For example, the 1912 obituary for Edward Bringhurst Jr. references that he "... was prominent. In business in this city, and held a number of directorates, being the oldest director in point of service I the Wilmington Savings Fund, having served there since 1875. He was vice-president of the Equitable Guarantee and Trust Company and the New Castle Mutual Insurance company. He was a prominent member of the Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends.... He was instrumental in

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

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erecting many of the finest buildings in this city and took an active part in many real estate transactions.”<sup>21</sup>

As a member of the social elite his son, Edward Bringhurst V bred Great Danes for showing. Mr. Bringhurst also took up photography and left behind an extraordinary collection of photographs of Rockwood and family members. Having never married, Edward Bringhurst V instead dedicated his life to aesthetic cultivation becoming an exceptionally early and important collector of American furniture of the colonial period, much of which is still owned by Rockwood.

Criterion C: Architecture and Landscape Architecture:

Rockwood is significant not only for the quality of its architectural design but also for its engineering. These values are made exceptional by their sustained context within the original 1850s landscape. While working in England, Joseph Shipley took a keen interest in horticulture and landscape design. As evidenced by his library, Shipley was interested in the work of Humphry Repton, John Claudius Loudon, Andrew Jackson Downing, and Edward Kemp. The design of the mansion is heavily inspired by Shipley’s Liverpool house, Wyncote, and the full estate closely followed, and still vividly reflects Andrew Jackson Downing’s rarified description of the *Ideal Villa*.<sup>22</sup> Rockwood was even mentioned in the author’s 1859 edition of Downing’s *A treatise on the theory and practice of landscape gardening adapted to North America*...<sup>23</sup>.

Pleasure Garden:

The Pleasure Garden was conceived, designed and built-in tandem with the mansion’s first phase of construction between 1851 and 1854. Described in 1861 as “the most splendid specimen of the English park-like style of landscape”<sup>24</sup> Rockwood remains among the best-preserved examples of the Gardenesque style of landscape design in the State of Delaware. The Gardenesque, championed by landscape architect John Claudius Loudon, at Rockwood combines a detailed composition of specimen trees and plants arranged in a naturalistic manner, large glacial boulders, gently curving gravel paths and large manicured lawns.

The Pleasure Garden is roughly broken into two historic halves, traditionally called the North Lawn and South Lawn. The North Lawn is a flat expanse across from the carriage entrance of the mansion’s north façade. Punctuated with rock formations against a manicured grass lawn, the North Lawn was designed to showcase a portion of Joseph Shipley’s arbor collection of native and exotic deciduous and coniferous trees. This lawn is framed between a Walled Garden and Carriage House complex to the west and the macadam entry drive to the house from the original Shipley Road estate entrance to the east. The Walled Garden, enclosed to the eastern façade of the Carriage House, once held the estate’s Kitchen Garden as well as a greenhouse and a hothouse, all now lost,

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/11718670/obituary-edward-bringhurst-jr/>

<sup>22</sup> Downing, A.J., *A treatise on the theory and practice of landscape gardening adapted to North America* (Wiley and Putman, London, 1844)

<sup>23</sup> Mullin, Timothy J., “Rockwood: Joseph Shipley’s English Estate in Brandywine Hundred, Delaware” *Delaware History* (31, spring/summer 2006)

<sup>24</sup> Graptolite, “Trip to Wilmington, Del.,” *The Gardener's Monthly and Horticultural Advertiser*, Vol 3 (August 1861): 229

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and was replaced in the 1930's with a Colonial Revival Parterre Garden for rose cultivation. Also lost now was a wooden Loggia for growing grape vines attached to a now-closed opening into the Walled Garden from North Lawn.

The South Lawn is another field of manicured grass that rolls gently downhill from the verandah of the mansion's south façade and is ringed by a gravel walking path. This lawn is framed between the rocky Chestnut Mound, a rising outcropping of stone also ringed by a walking path once dramatized by now-lost chestnut trees that affords a view to the Delaware River, and a Pinetum to the west. This constellation of themed components of the Pleasure Garden is contained within the estate's original Ha-Ha Wall, installed during the first phase of construction, and measures about 300 yards. From the elevated vantage point of the mansion, the viewshed across the encircling gardens and lawns remains uninterrupted. Viewing the mansion from the southern edge of the park outside the Ha-Ha Wall, the high peaks of its roofline are accented by the mature coniferous trees visually framing the east and west ends.

The only room within the mansion to have views of both the North and South Lawns is the Conservatory. Symbolically, with external doors on both its north and south facades, this area is a gateway to both halves of the estate as well as a centralizing hub of estate activity. It is not surprising that to the immediate east of this crossroads is Rockwood's now-lost Pet Cemetery known only in period photographs from the turn of the century. The Conservatory is a glass and wooden structure built during the first phase of construction within the estate and supported internally on a set of cast-iron arcades imported from England by Joseph Shipley. It projects from the mansion's east façade and is adjacent to the Breakfast Room Porch. This structure is topped with a cast iron decorative gallery that veils the shallow roofline and gutters.

The use of design, viewshed and manicured presentation in the estate was not confined to the six-acre Pleasure Garden but extended beyond the border of the Ha-Ha Wall. The area north of the original entry road to the mansion was known as The Cliffs for an unusual stone ridge, related to the Chestnut Mound, with an exposed cliff face that rises about thirty feet above the drive. Now overgrown with invasive species, this rising garden feature was once routinely cleared of all underbrush in order to highlight a Romantic tree-lined vista for visitors entering the estate. At the height of The Cliffs, one of the tallest points on the estate, was built a series of temporary architectural follies described as treehouses. In addition, the area that is currently the park's upper parking lot was historically an ordered orchard, likely of peaches, and the flat lawn adjacent to it was developed into a badminton court.

Rockwood Estate:

Outside the Ha-Ha Wall, Rockwood was historically agricultural. Farming there ended after the second World War and this area slowly transformed into a public park by 2000 featuring a new park entrance on Washington Street Extension, modern walking paths, two parking lots, electrical services, path lighting and a fountain. Despite these modern conveniences, Rockwood retains evidence of and often full edifices of many of the buildings, structures and features that once supported its agricultural practices.

Beginning at the northern edge of the park that abuts with Interstate 95, intersecting with

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Rockwood's section of the Northern Delaware Greenways Trail, runs the first of three dry-stack freestanding walls throughout the park. The northernmost wall crosses the entire park and peaks up into a chevron shape that frames the mansion and farm buildings below. The second wall encloses Rockwood's original entrance and runs from Shipley Road along the southern side of the entrance drive and connects with the southern portion of the Ha-Ha Wall. The final, shortest wall bisects the lower former-agricultural fields in half from the South Lawn in a south-easterly direction.

Within view of the northern wall is the Gardener's Cottage, a stone building with hipped roof and clustered chimneys, was the home of the on-site gardening and farming manager. The house is believed to have been constructed in 1855, at around the same time as the Rockwood mansion, however the Georgian central hall plan of this two-story house, three-bay Brandywine granite house with a hipped roof certainly contrasts with other Gothic Revival designs.<sup>25</sup> At some later date, a one-floor kitchen wing was added to the west end of this now-empty building and a two-story cinderblock structure was added out the back northern façade.

Before the park modernized with a new southern entrance on Washington Street Extension, visitors still entered through the original Walled Gates on Shipley Road on the eastern border and drove past the Porter's Lodge. This two-story Gothic Revival Brandywine granite house with a gabled roof housed the family of the estate porter. Joseph Shipley, for unknown reasons, did not retain George Williams for the design of this house and instead hired Thomas and James Dixon of Baltimore, Maryland.<sup>26</sup> With its elaborately screened entrance porch and decorative carvings, the Porter's Lodge foreshadowed the architectural vocabulary that visitors would soon see at the Rockwood mansion. The winding entrance drive, the earliest known example of macadam road construction in Delaware<sup>27</sup>, bisects the estate in half. Before encountering the Rockwood mansion at the highest point of this road, visitors pass a set of stone masonry piers that once chained off livestock from entering the Pleasure Garden in the gap of the Ha-Ha Wall left by the road. At the far end of this entrance drive, on the west edge of the park, are the ruins of the bridge over Turkey Run Creek and nearby on a plot of private land that was sold from the estate as part of the encroaching development are masonry gate piers that were once an exit onto Rockwood Road.

Once up the winding hill and past the mansion, the cluster of the estate's principal farming structures can be detected. The Icehouse is located past the mansion on the south side of the entry drive. This cellar-like Brandywine granite structure is built two-stories into the ground between 1851-54 and was covered with a simple shake gabled roof. Under the roof there is a vented brick barrel vault, that forms an insulating double roof.

Across, on the northern side of the entry drive, is located a large service building whose humble origins are presumed to pre-date Joseph Shipley's influence on this land. The stone Carriage House

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<sup>25</sup> George Williams, Architectural Drawings of Rockwood, 1851, University of Delaware Library-Manuscript and Archival Collection, Shipley-Bringinghurst-Hargraves Family Paper, Box 2, F72

<sup>26</sup> Thomas Dixon later, in 1871, designed the Grand Opera House in downtown Wilmington, Delaware.

<sup>27</sup> According to family tradition, the entry driveway and Shipley Road bordering the estate were made of a macadam process.

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complex, now connected as a modern event and conference center, was created in phases starting with a one-bay bank barn. The second phase included alterations in 1851 when Joseph Shipley converted it to a stable. The third phase (date unknown, but likely pre-1870) included a three-story addition which doubled the size of the original bank barn. The fourth phase of this complex's construction (1900-1907) doubled the size of the barn and added additional stables, carriage bays and a machine shop on the main floor as well as storage for farming tools and supplies, feed storage for the animals and coal bins. Living quarters for farm workers were added on the second floor. Also added during this phase is the prominent cistern tower.

Opposite the Carriage House, two rustic stone buildings sit along the eastern edge of the Walled Garden. Both are one story one bay buildings with low sloped roofs. They are connected by a covered walkway with a doorway leading to the formal North Lawn and opening to the kitchen garden. The northernmost of the two buildings once housed the boiler that heated the 19<sup>th</sup> century hothouse inside the Walled Garden. It was also made the scullery. The southern building was likely a gardening shed.

West of the Carriage House was a series of now-lost farming buildings including a chicken coop that was converted into a dog kennel. There is also photographic evidence of a woodshed, corn crib and a hay shed in that area.

At the southern edge of the Ha-Ha Wall is the Gas House. The Gas House is of Brandywine granite and constructed into the Chestnut Mound with reinforcing buttresses and a central door. This building once held the equipment to create the acetylene gas mixture that fueled the mansion's industrial lighting forms. A lead pipe brought the gas from the bunker into the house. The flat roof of this service building was once also fashioned as rustic look-out point with a log-constructed gable roof structure built above – it offered an elevated view over the agricultural fields at the southern end of the park.

Three additional ruins complete the description of notable buildings, structures, and features of Rockwood. The ruins of a two-story rough granite structure remain in an area roughly half-way between the Rockwood mansion and the Porter's Lodge. This former farmhouse, later described as Edward's Playhouse, had an exterior wooden stair and was ringed by trees and surrounded by open agricultural fields. It is believed this building pre-dates Shipley's influence upon this land and is perhaps a contemporary with the original bank barn that was on the property when it was purchased from Levi Weldin (dates unknown). In addition, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century windmill was also located near the eastern boundary of the park near Shellpot Creek. The structure was part of a water system which pumped water from Shellpot Creek to a partially extant holding tank to the right of the Gas House. From there, water was distributed by gravity to the growing beds below. Of the windmill structure, a stone vault with a concrete lid and ram house remains today.

Gothic Revival Comparison:

The Lesley-Travers Mansion located at 112 West Street in New Castle, Delaware is another New Castle County Gothic Revival manor house constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 [NPS#73000523] and documented by the Historic American Building Survey in 1983 [HABS Survey DE-181] this country estate manor



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house was designed by Baltimore architects Thomas and James M. Dixon and constructed by Augustin Van Kirk of Salem, New Jersey. Built for Dr. Allen Voorhees Lesley in 1855 it retains several character-defining features similar to Rockwood including decorative bargeboard trim and cross gables. Unlike Rockwood, which is constructed of Brandywine granite, walls of the Lesley-Travers Mansion are constructed of brick laid in a common bond pattern upon a stone foundation. When constructed, original interior amenities include a central heating system, servants' bells, and gas lighting fixtures. Photos of the Lesley-Travers Mansion can be found in Figure 2.

	<b>Rockwood</b> <b>NPS# 76000579</b>	Lesley-Travers Mansion NPS# 73000523
Delaware CRS Number	<b>N00435</b>	N00385
Year Built	<b>1851</b>	1855
Locational Information	<b>New Castle County, Delaware</b>	New Castle County, Delaware
Architectural Style	<b>Gothic Revival</b>	Gothic Revival
Architectural Features	<b>Grouped chimneys, decorative bargeboard trim, grouped elongated windows, central heating system installed at the time of initial construction</b>	Grouped chimneys, decorative bargeboard trim, grouped elongated windows, central heating system installed at the time of initial construction
Architect	<b>George Williams of England</b>	Thomas and James M. Dixon of Baltimore, Maryland
Construction Type	<b>Stone</b>	Stone, clad in brick
Conservatory	<b>Original conservatory intact and attached to main block</b>	No known conservatory
Additions	<b>Additions to the main block, well documented</b> <b>-Period 1: 1851-1854</b> <b>-Period 2: 1854-1857</b> <b>-Period 3: 1982-1900</b> <b>-Period 4: 1913</b> <b>-Period 5: 1930-1939</b>	Undocumented additions and rehabilitations to the building -restored in 1903 -restored in 1970 Interior modified to accommodate residential and newspaper office functions.
Ancillary Buildings	<b>Surviving period ancillary buildings from the period of significance</b>	None
Historic Ownership	<b>Over 120 years of continuous familial ownership</b>	48 years of continuous familial ownership
Acreage associated with the property historically	<b>About 211 Acres</b>	About 200 Acres
Acreage associated with the property in 2022	<b>73.48 Acres</b>	About 2 acres
Landscape Features	<b>Intact and identified Gardenesque Landscape features</b>	Landscape features are not described in the 1972 National Register Nomination or in 1975 HABS survey.

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In nearby Philadelphia there exists a great number of Gothic Revival houses of this early period which were similar to the original section of Rockwood. Inglewood Cottage (1850) of Chestnut Hill was designed by Thomas Ustick Walter and is very similar in scale and lay-out to Rockwood. However, it was built as a summer cottage in a suburban setting, not as an idealized farm. The Ohio House (1876-under the NPS Number: 72001151 for Fairmont Park) was built for the Centennial from various types of Ohio Sandstone and timber aligning perhaps more with Craftsman Gothic in design and materials. Within this region, Rockwood may be most like the Ebenezer Maxwell House (1859) of West Germantown (NPS Number: 71000728 under the Tulpehocken Station Historic District). While not as distinctly Gothic Revival as Rockwood, the Ebenezer Maxwell has attempted to recreate a garden setting evocative of the 19th century. Nationally, Rockwood can be confidently compared with such notable houses as Alexander Jackson Davis's Lyndhurst Mansion (1838-NPS Number: 66000582) within its original setting and preserved with its original decorative art collection and the Green-Meldrim House (c. 1853) of Savannah Georgia designed by John Norris (NPS Number: 74000664) although the garden and interior decorations are reproductions.

One of the great untold assets of Rockwood's significance is the extent to which the history of its engineering, from 1851 to 1939, has been preserved. The house was designed with gas lighting, central heating on the first floor, indoor plumbing and a water closet, servant-call system, as well as an attached conservatory with a heated floor. Elements of these 1850s technological advancements are still present within the estate including the preserved gas house and gas outlets within the house, portions of the original wooden duct work and hot water boiler plates in the basement along with the original cooling channel beneath the basement flooring for air return, and the location of the first water closet inside a bathroom that was renovated in 1892. The lighting placement and several of the original lighting fixtures that were introduced in the 1892 electrification of Rockwood also still exist adding to this historic layering of the industrial revolution within the home. In addition, the house's updated radiator heating system that was begun to be installed in the 1890s was still operational until the museum was outfitted with modern climate controls. The remnants, artifacts, and evidence of the many ways the building was heated trace the development and history of American domestic heating technology from nineteenth century Victorian fireplaces through twentieth century forced hot air and air conditioning.<sup>28</sup>

Among Rockwood's most significant features is its attached conservatory. Rockwood is unique in an area dominated by French architecture with a conservatory that is likely one of the only remaining of its type still standing in the United States.<sup>29</sup> Built as part of the mansion from 1851-54, Rockwood's conservatory is likely the earliest known surviving example attached to a dwelling

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<sup>28</sup> Ortega, Richard I., John M. Dickey and Matthew J. Mosca (Structures Consulting Engineers), *Historic Structure Report of the Rockwood Museum* (Volume I and II, 1986) Rockwood Park & Museum

<sup>29</sup> Lee, Lawrence Elliott, "Rockwood: A Victorian Gardenesque Landscape" (M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1987) 157. Other early surviving conservatories attached to dwellings can be found at the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion, Norwalk, CT (1968) the Mark Twain House, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, NY, NY, (1903). In the 1850's when Rockwood was built many conservatories existed attached to dwellings, but so far, no earlier surviving ones have been documented.

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in America.<sup>30</sup> During the early 1800's conservatories were considered a luxury which only the very wealthy could afford. When Rockwood was built, conservatories were more common, but they were still considered a sign of distinction. Being fragile structures, often built out of wood, most conservatories built during the mid-1800s have not survived. Almost as rare and perhaps just as significant in America is the fully intact 300 yard-long Ha-Ha Wall surrounding Rockwood's six-acre Pleasure Garden.

Rockwood Estate's Landscape Architecture:

In a part of the world with so many very grand picturesque gardens, as well as extremely fine botanical collections, Rockwood takes an unusually early place having been laid out and maintained along its principal design since the 1850s. The significance is increased when considering how much of the composition of that early gardening pattern still exists. Shipley began acquiring plants and trees for his garden in prior to the completion of the house in 1852.<sup>31</sup> Plant materials were acquired from Mount Hope Nurseries in Rochester New York, Ashton Nurseries in Burlington New Jersey, George Skinner and Robert Buist of Philadelphia.

Trees known to have been planted by Joseph Shipley from 1851 to 1854, and can still be found in the garden, include a 25 foot tall American Holly (*Ilex opacal*) which was moved in 1903 to just outside the walled garden, Sugar Maple (*Acer Saccharum*), Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus Atlantical*), Hawthorn (*Cratagus Monogynal*), Purple Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica Atropunicea*), Weeping European Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica Pendula*), Norway Spruce (*PicasAbies*), Eastern White Pine (*Pica Abies*), Eastern White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*), and Eastern Hemlock (*Tisuga Camadensis*). Shrubs were dominated by the large Catawba Rhododenrons (*Rhododenron Catawbiense*) which dot the lawn. Other plantings included Hemlock (*Tsuga*), White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*), Tuliptree (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*), Oriental Spruce (*Pica Orientalis*), and Umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia Tripetala*). Shipley also added Black Walnut (*Juglans Migral*) and Spanish Chestnut (*Csstanea Sativa*) which are now lost. Other missing plants known to have been planted on the estate include Peonie (*Pacomia*), Double Flowered Hawthorn (*Crataegus*), Arborvitae (*Tjuja*), Osage Orange (*Maclura Pomifera*), Smoke Tree (*Cotinus*) and Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus*).<sup>32</sup>

In 1852 Joseph Shipley also purchased a quantity of pear trees that were grafted onto quince root stalks to be grown espalier within the Walled Garden. There were also some varieties of apples, apricots, cherries, and peaches were also espaliered. Many of the pears Joseph Shipley grew at Rockwood where European varieties were classified according to their season of fruit bearing. Mr. Shipley purchased a number of winter pears such as "Beurre Easter" and "Glout Morceau"<sup>33</sup>, which were picked in the late fall and packed in barrels for ripening in the winter. In addition, the house garden within the Walled Garden also grew foods that were consumed year-round such as onions, figs, strawberries, eggplants, potatoes, and rhubarb. Meanwhile, the farm surrounding the Pleasure Garden grew hay, oats, wheat, and corn during Joseph Shipley's time.

<sup>30</sup> Lee, "Rockwood: A Victorian Gardenesque Landscape" 157

<sup>31</sup> Mullin "Rockwood: Joseph Shipley's English Estate in Brandywine Hundred, Delaware"

<sup>32</sup> Mullin "Rockwood: Joseph Shipley's English Estate in Brandywine Hundred, Delaware"

<sup>33</sup> Vietta Group, with Menke & Menke, *Rockwood Museum A Master Plan for The Restoration & Adaptive Use of the Historic Landscape & Buildings* (1995) Rockwood Park & Museum

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For raising truly exotic fruits, such as pineapples, grapes, citrus fruits and melons, Shipley built a greenhouse and a hothouse inside the Walled Garden. Joseph Shipley referred to it as “the vinery”<sup>34</sup> and in it grew choice European grapes (vitas Vinifera). Joseph Shipley owned a wine press and may have used American varieties of grapes that he grew at Rockwood for wine making.

The Bringhursts maintained Shipley’s vision for the garden, especially in their management of the arbor, but sometime in the 1930’s Edward Bringhurst V replaced the House Garden with a Colonial Revival Partere Garden lined with boxwoods, lawn yews, weeping hemlocks and a fountain. The garden also featured flower beds with annuals and perennials including asters, zinnias, and plume poppies. The Bringhurst continued to grow fruits and vegetables in this garden even rebuilding Shipley’s vinery. Eventually, however, the food producing garden made way for a more formal flower garden including the planting of a raised horseshoe-shaped hedge of Dr. Van Fleet roses in 1939. These roses still bloom each May at Rockwood.

Supplemental Information:

The staff and volunteers of Rockwood are preparing for many restoration projects in the future as well as introducing new concepts to the park that will relate its history to populations that have historically been underrepresented in its interpretation. The Gardner’s Cottage and location of the badminton court are underutilized and need strategic planning with the community to identify possible new applications. Also, the Walled Garden, Partere Garden, North Lawn, Cliffs, and the Chestnut Mound all need to be restored with freshly installed paths, path lighting, and plantings using historic references. A new Apothecary Garden was added in 2018 inside the Pleasure Garden, the first major addition in almost 100 years, to highlight the pharmaceutical history of the Bringhurst Family and to interpret the plant-based remedies practiced by the region’s diverse cultures for hundreds of years.

The park’s staff hope to create other commemorative garden concepts inside the park that will feature interpretation of the pre-Shipley residents of this area, especially the Lenape Tribe of Delaware as well as early European settlers. The staff also hopes to determine whether or not Joseph Shipley owned or leased enslaved labor as part of the estate’s agricultural practices. In addition, the Rockwood mansion needs to be more accessible, and its basement needs to be renovated to display histories of the estate’s important engineering. Finally, the interiors need to be updated to better recognize the contributions of all of Rockwood’s inhabitants, especially women and servants.

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<sup>34</sup> Ortega, *Historic Structure Report of the Rockwood Museum*

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☒ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # de0249  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☒ University  
☒ Other  
Name of repository: Rockwood Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N00435

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 73.48 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.77311 Longitude: -75.52077

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Rockwood Estate Historic District

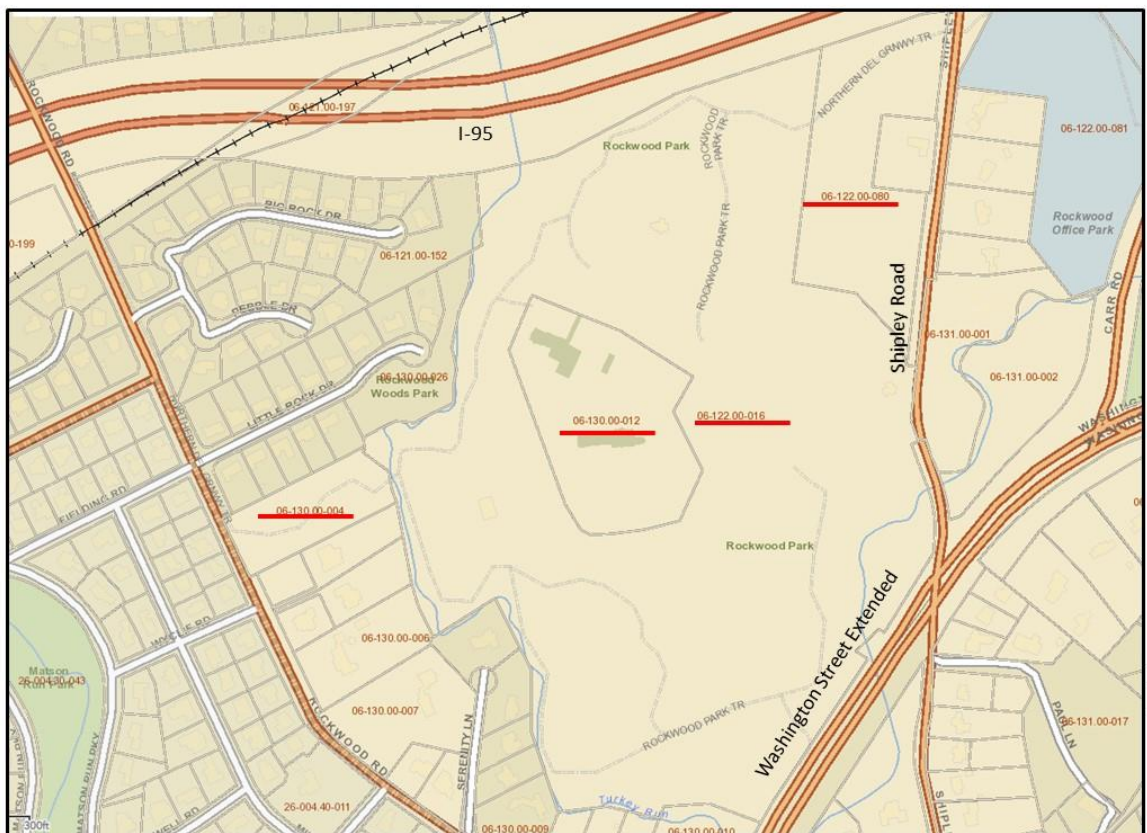
New Castle County, DE

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property)

Red underlined parcels numbers represent tax parcels associated with the 2022 Amended Rockwood National Register Nomination.



**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

New Castle County Tax Parcel Number	Description	Acreage
<b>06-130.00-012</b>	Rockwood Pleasure Garden and Mansion	6.5 acres
<b>06-122.00-016</b>	Rockwood Park	57.83 acres
<b>96-122.00-080</b>	Rockwood Park	6.67 acres
<b>06-130.00-004</b>	NCC Parks-annexed to Rockwood Park	2.48 acres
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>73.48 acres</b>

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Volunteers of Rockwood Museum, Rick Lovelace- principal researcher, and  
Ryan Grover – Director of Rockwood Museum  
organization: Rockwood Museum – New Castle Count, DE  
street & number: 4651 Washington Street Extension  
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e-mail: [Ryan.Grover@newcastlede.gov](mailto:Ryan.Grover@newcastlede.gov)  
telephone: 302-395 2853  
date: September 16, 2022

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Rockwood Estate Historic District

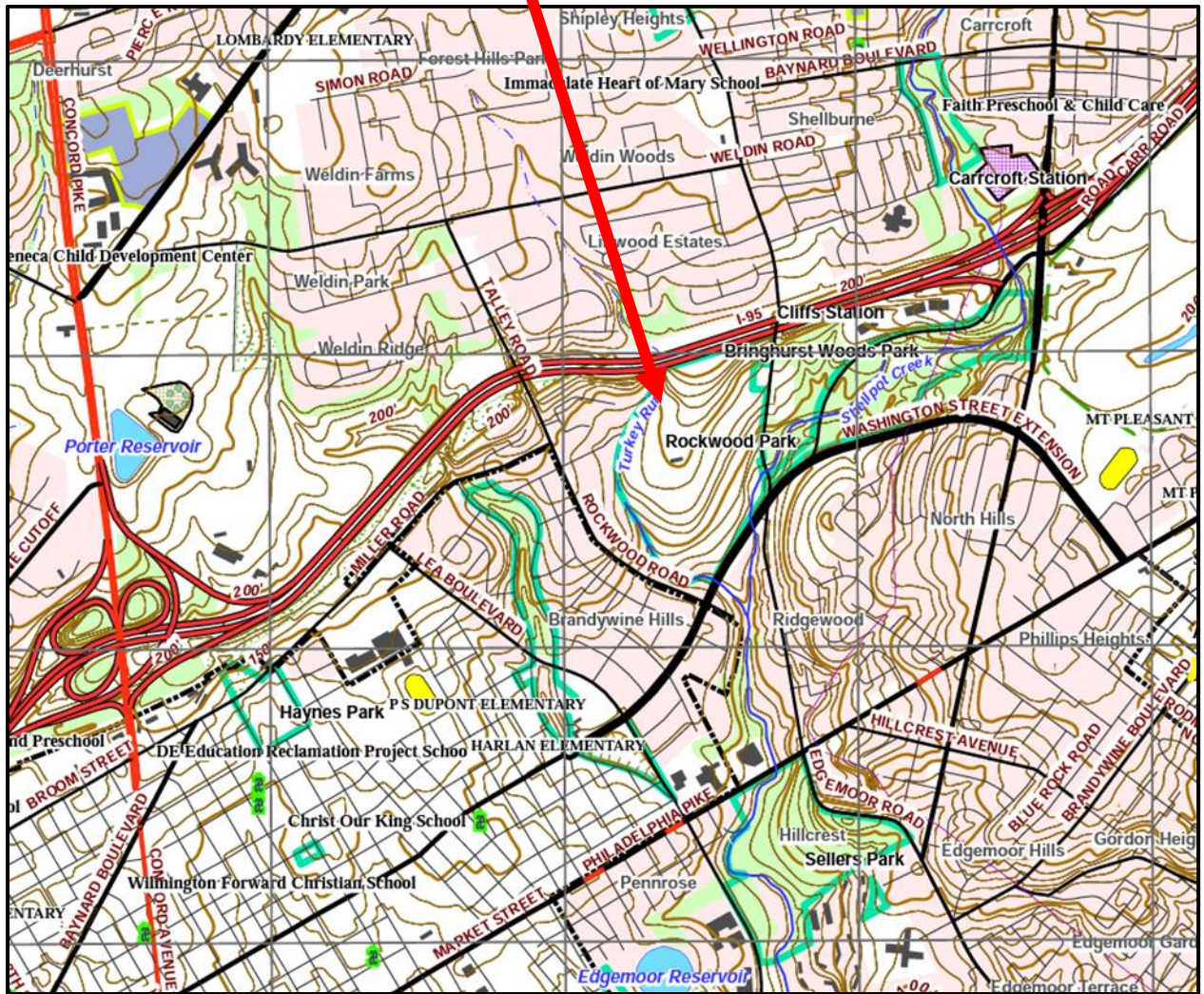
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**USGS Wilmington North Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series**

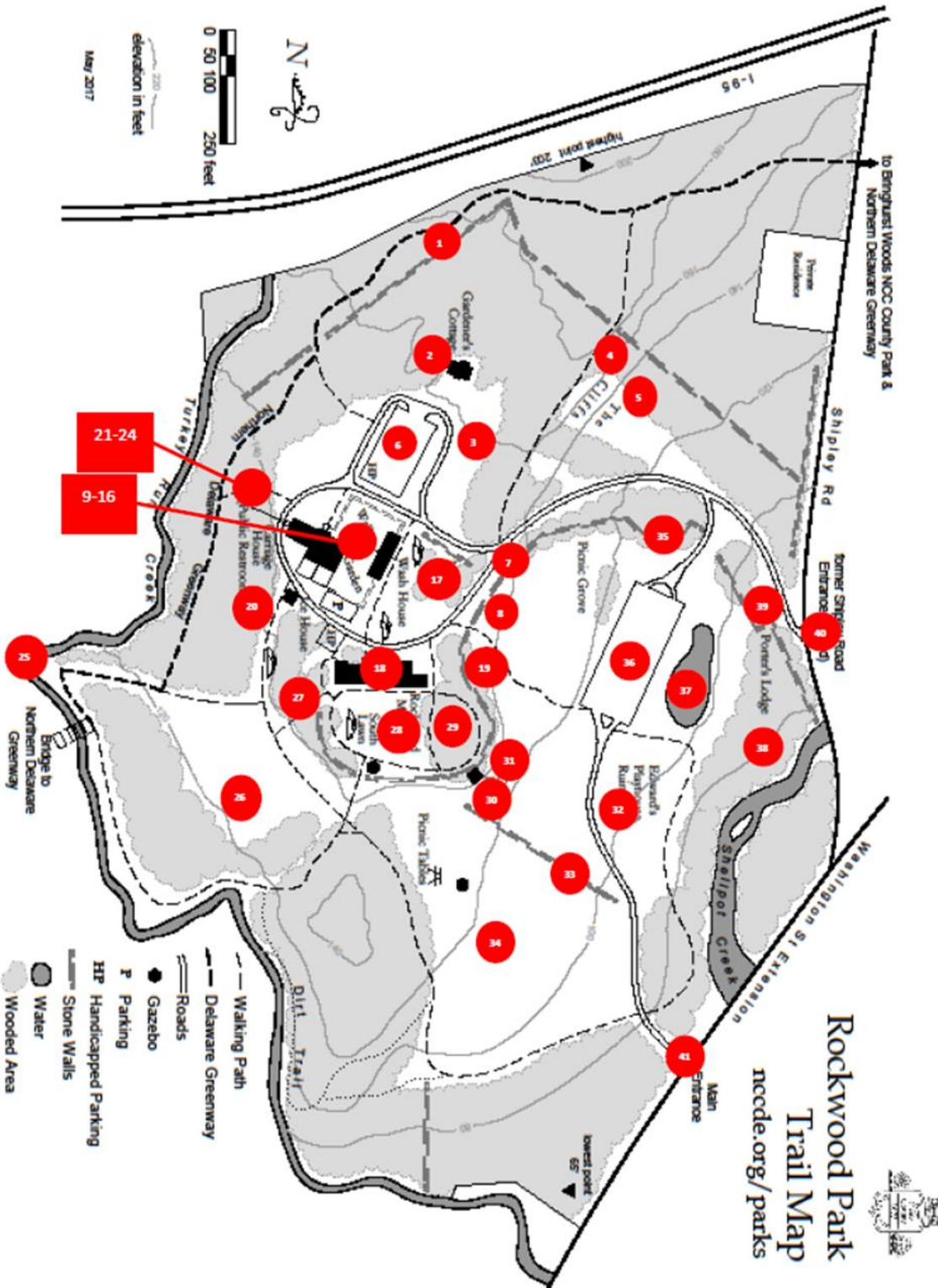
**Latitude 39.77311 Longitude: -75.52077**



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**Correlations with Delaware's 2018 – 2022 Statewide Historic Preservation Plan titled  
"Partners in Preservation: Planning for the Future"**

Goal #1: Strengthen/expand Delaware's core federal/state historic preservation program.

Strategy:7: Address gaps and biases in the state's inventory of historic properties.

Action 7a: Prioritize cultural resource survey and National Register nominations to address underrepresented communities or property types.

Goal 2: Enhance or establish relationships among government programs that impact historic preservation.

Strategy 1: Encourage all governments to serve as positive models for stewardship of historic properties which they own.

Action 1c: Work with state and local agencies to nominate historic buildings within their ownership to the National Register of Historic Places and adopt appropriate treatments to protect them.

Goal 3: Encourage inclusion of historic preservation values as a best practice in landscape and community planning.

Strategy 1. Educate local governments on historic preservation as contributing to quality of life within their jurisdictions.

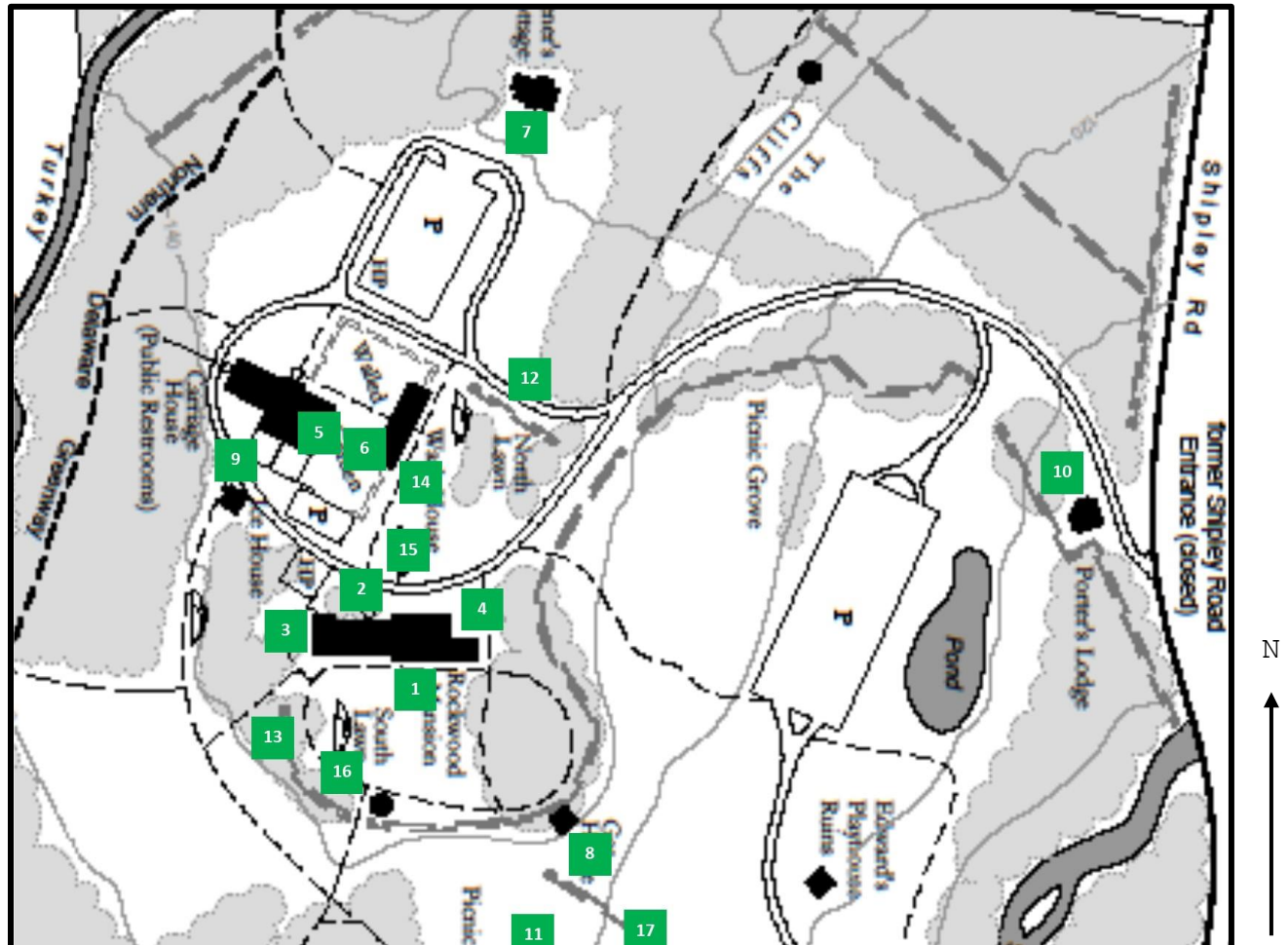
Action 1d: Provide information to local governments on how to establish and use local historic districts as a method of protecting historic properties and community character.



Rockwood Estate Historic District  
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**Rockwood Estate Historic District Photo Key:**



Rockwood Estate Historic District  
Name of Property

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### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Rockwood Park and Museum

City or Vicinity: Wilmington

County: New Castle County State: Delaware

Photographer: Ryan Grover

Date Photographed: September 9, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_1)

View of the Mansion's south façade with the South Lawn in the foreground looking north

2 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_2)

View of the North façade off the Mansion's 1913 addition featuring the Tower, second-floor Conservatory and 1930s third-floor Servant Bedrooms from North Lawn looking south

3 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_3)

View of the West End of the Mansion's 1913 Addition featuring Japanesque Sleeping Porch looking east

4 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_4)

View of the Conservatory featuring the Mourning Room Porch and East Mansion Facade from the North Lawn looking south

5 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_5)

View of the Carriage House's East Façade featuring its Cistern Tower from the Colonial Revival Parterre Garden looking west

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6 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_6)

View of Colonial Revival Parterre Garden featuring 1930s Brighthurst-planted rose bushes and northeast corner of the Carriage House from the Garden Shed looking west

7 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_7)

View of Gardner's Cottage south façade looking north

8 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_8)

View of Gas House south façade featuring the Chestnut Mound in background looking north

9 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_9)

View of Ice House north façade from Carriage House looking south

10 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_10)

View of Porter's Lodge north façade featuring the estate's original gate entrance onto Shipley Street-now closed-looking south

11 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_11)

View of South Meadow, part of the former agricultural fields of the estate, from atop of the Gas House looking south

12 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_12)

View of the northern edge of the Ha Ha Wall featuring a portion of the North Lawn looking south

13 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_13)

View of the Pinetum featuring Shipley-planted Blue Atlas Cedar and European Larch trees from the northwest corner of the South Lawn looking south

14 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_14)

View of Shipley-planted Black Gum tree on North Lawn with Walled Garden and Carriage House in the background

15 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_15)

View of Shipley-planted Blue Atlas Cedar tree on North Lawn opposite the Mansion's Museum entrance

16 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_16)

View of Shipley-planted European Larch tree on the South Lawn at the edge of the Pinetum looking south

17 of 17 (DE\_New Castle County\_Rockwood\_17)

View of South Dry Stack Stone Wall from atop of the Gas House looking south

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### List of Figures

**Figure 1: Daguerreotype of Wyncote Mansion and Estate**

**Figure 2: Lesley-Travers Mansion**

**Figure 3: Gothic Revival Comparisons with the original 1850's section of Rockwood**

**Figure 4: Colored-coded Phases of Construction at Rockwood Estate**

**Figure 5: Rockwood Estate's 1st Floor Plan for Phase 1 of Construction**

**Figure 6: 1st Floor Plan with additions at Rockwood Estate**

**Figure 7 : Photographs of Surviving Trees Planted by Joseph Shipley during the 19th Century**

**Figure 8: Map Excerpt – Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware Rea & Price map of New Castle County, Delaware (1849)**

**Figure 9: Map Excerpt: Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County Delaware Pomeroy and Beers Atlas of the State of Delaware (1868)**

**Figure 10: Map Excerpt: Rockwood Property – Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware Hopkins Map of New Castle County, Delaware (1881)**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours  
Tier 2 – 120 hours  
Tier 3 – 230 hours  
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.